



REDMOND PARK BOARD



Minutes

December 2, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair: Snodgrass, Co-chair: Seth Kelsey, Boardmembers: Margeson, Stewart, Ladd, and Youth Advocates: Zak and Jones

Absent and Excused: Park Boardmembers: Degenstein and Callister

City staff present: Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, Timothy Cox, Park Planning Manager, and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

II. Items from the Audience

Slough House Park– Cox reported that he received an e-mail updating the status of the Slough House Park and the potential acquisition by the City of Redmond (corner of Leary Way and 159th Place NE) regarding that project. Negotiations are proceeding as scheduled; the hope expressed is that this will be finalized by the end of this year.

Hopkins noted that this CIP project has about a \$30,000 budget. Greg Byszeski, Park Operations Manager, will attend a future Park Board meeting to discuss the preliminary plans are for the first phase, public input will follow.

Sunset Gardens Park Dedication – Hopkins reported a successful turnout. He congratulated the Board, Council and staff for their hard work and cooperation. A historical sign/marker will be installed at the site. The City will consult with the Historical Society to get insight on the park's historical aspects.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of the November 4, 2004 Redmond Park Board minutes as presented

Motion by: Stewart

Second by: Margeson

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

Perrigo Heights

Bob Yoder, Redmond, Resident – Education Hill resident for 17 years. Mr. Yoder noted his approval for the possibility of a “park bond”. Mr. Yoder also noted, for record, that he was not “spearheading” the Perrigo Height effort, but others (Julia Brandt, etc.), like himself, were all very much involved.

Mr. Yoder stated that his group is hoping that some negotiations could be made to purchase the land through some funding mechanism available to the Parks Department. He felt that this piece of property, which would be unlike any other Park owned property would add diversity to the city's Park system. Mr. Yoder stated he, as well as a large number of others, would support and are in favor of any Park bond/funding mechanism.

Snodgrass responded that the Board was in the process of determining what type of funding mechanism would be in the best interest of the City and residents, or whether any funding mechanism would be feasible at this time at all. The final decisions will be based on surveys and other pertinent information being collected and investigated. No anticipated timeline has been determined. Timing and type of funding mechanism may be decided contingent upon other bonds or revenue generating ballot measures that may be going forward (i.e. Transportation bond, etc.).

Yoder stated he is hoping that the Board will hear more from fellow supporters of the all over plan the Board decides on.

Hopkins noted that a funding mechanism had not been decided upon and the polling questionnaire would determine how much, the type and what type of expenditure would be made – determined by Board and Council.

Stewart inquired if Yoder's group would be willing to back up/support the Board decision on a funding mechanism. Yoder responded that in the near future a better indication of what the response would be is likely. 450 to 500 signatures were submitted, as well as 100 testimonies at the October 19th Council meeting. The last meeting showed a support of 200+ at the walk through.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Board Retreat Recap

Hopkins noted that the summary sent to the Board was in draft form and that any additions could be made to it. Hopkins added that the meeting was very good and the tour of park properties was an excellent way to familiarize and update members on projects. Comments made by attending members:

Margeson - Enjoyed tour - great value - locations of parks. Afternoon discussion on future of parks was well received.

Jones - Enjoyed tour - locations of park, future of parks planning

Zak - Good discussion.

Stewart - Important time to spend, functional and useful.

Ladd - Good meeting, more time in field - allows direct experience of condition of parks, locations, shape of developed and undeveloped parks, seeing user activities. Afternoon discussion was substantial. Very productive. Different impressions gained during different times of the year/seasons.

Kelsey - Opportunity to walk the properties - no full impact without walking the property. Next tour key in on target/chosen properties, good discussion, good progress, more focus on future Board decisions.

Snodgrass - Staff very receptive of Board's comments, materials and organizing events. Board agreed the retreat was successful.

B. Land Acquisition

Hopkins reported that two important topics of interest had come out of the Board's Retreat:

- 1) Vicinity Land Acquisition
- 2) Parks System Land Acquisition

The Board was forwarded the comprehensive list of land acquisition efforts since 1994. The department is legally bound to buy properties through the Comprehensive Plan Parks Improvement Plan utilizing Impact fees:

- NW 116th Street – Rose Hill Area
- 2 parcel of LWSD property in the same area

Trust for Public Lands is moving ahead with the county acquisitions King County is moving ahead with looking at key parcels of land, for land acquisitions, with the possibility of going ahead with a funding mechanism. King County is looking ahead as to how they will be funding their regional parks systems after their levy ends; also looking to buy additional lands. Trust for Public Lands is moving ahead with the county acquisitions.

The Mayor and Council have discussed a possible levy lid for operational dollars. The City has future meetings scheduled with the City of Bellevue to discuss regional park issues to get a clearer understanding of the issue.

Fifteen properties (planned acquisitions and identified in the 1997 PRO Plan) are identified in the Park Improvement Plan (PIP) – these properties are to facilitate park development and trail connections:

- Bear Creek Trail Acquisition – associated properties
- ½ half of the SE Neighborhood Park
- Phase II Perrigo Park
- Heron Site Acquisition – potential donation from Safeco
- NW Neighborhood Park

C. Municipal Campus Master Plan (MCMP)

Hopkins summarized the process the department had gone through in the MCMP project to date. The Park Board, staff and Council have reviewed elements of the Master Plan. Report will be 11"x17" with graphics associated with the final report – a strike out, highlighted in red, was provided Park Board for comments to be incorporated by the consultant. Document will be finalized and available for Board review with January packets. Consideration for approval will take place at the January meeting. Cox handed out a list of Phase I amenities requested by the Board at a past meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Park System Performance

Hopkins summarized discussion stemming from the Park Board's annual retreat noting how the Park Board could become more involved in helping plan for the out years of the CIP and PIP. Steps to this process:

- 1) Neighborhoods/Facilities/School District Resources – get a better understanding and discuss a verbal tour of the neighborhoods (what properties are there, school district resources, other governmental agency resources, key properties that might benefit the surrounding neighborhoods.
- 2) Staff to provide SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat) of that neighborhood parks system. Park Ops, Recreation and Planning division will write a brief analysis regarding the parks system – strength, weak points, where there are possibilities to enhance the park from a staff's perspective.
- 3) The Board will then discuss and give comment – comments will be incorporated into a plan for each neighborhood. There are nine neighborhoods in the City. Evaluation and could be a two year process.

B. Evaluation – Introduction/Grass Lawn Neighborhoods

Cox discussed the Grass Lawn Policies the City's Planning Dept. spearheaded with the Planning Commission and with Park Board input, to the Parks, Recreation, Trails and Art Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Final adoption will go to Council within the next month or so. Park, Recreation and Open Space policies were included in the Board's packet – Fig. 7 shows the park's systems nine neighborhoods – also included aerials for – Grass Lawn Community Park (CP), Scott's Pond property and Spiritbrook Neighborhood Park. Fig. 8 of the PRO Plan – Park Improvement Plan (PIP) – all projects that are to be accomplished in accordance with the PIP, showing eventual improvements to Scott's Pond – local park. Phase I (completed), II (completed) and III (funding acquired) of GrassLawn Community Park, identified within the GrassLawn area for the future. Bi-annual update on the PRO Plan will include new aerial photos of these areas.

As staff looks at and evaluates how the parks meet the needs of the community, and how they can be improved, what additional facilities might be added or modified, need for additional acquisitions and trail linkages, the Board will be evaluating the parks needs, with possible modifications to the PIP for future projects within neighborhoods. Analysis will correspond with neighborhood plans as much as possible.

The Board will also review a list of school district amenities – facilities (Jr. High and High School) and adjacent City's properties near these neighborhoods (Kirkland).

Goal of the next meeting – understanding of GrassLawn area (supplemental information will be given to the Board prior to the next months' meeting) and report from each division for analysis. Possible outcome of Board input by February's meeting. Comments to be a "springboard" for the CIP and future PRO Plan.

VII. Reports – Project

A. NE 83rd Street Improvements – Phase I Update - Cox

Architects – KPG and City staff person, Jeannie Koejke, provided staff and Board with an update and schedule of the advertised construction schedule, spring 2005, with substantial completion, summer 2005. Phase I, primarily intersection included improvements at 161st and 83rd Street – block modification on both sides of the street between 161st and 160th Streets. The objectives are to, in part; implement the "Green Street" concept, as part of the Downtown Master Plan. Phase I is primarily emphasizing safety improvements at the corner of 161st and 83rd – signalization of that intersection.

Stewart noted that the objective, for the City and Transit Facility Plans, included looking "long-term", as the project moves forward to avoid "re-working" something later on. The plan will be viable for a 4-6 year timeframe.

The street will be realigned. The timeline is 18-24 months out for the transit component. The component will provide some furniture improvements; sidewalk and plans will be consistent with Public Works with no infringement on SkatePark. Once the transit plans are finalized, the Parks Dept. will augment the planting plan. Trees will be planted and sight distances need to be addressed, as well as, sensitivity to tree plantings and landscaping; also consistent with future downtown plans.

Kelsey noted his concern regarding street tree plantings as to tree root growth. He also noted that the landscape architects did a good job with variety of tree types.

B. Evans Trail Construction

Cox reported that paving is completed with the entire Phase I project substantially completed. Staff worked with the City's Transportation Dept. on the 95th Street overlay, which is now completed. Linkage to the trail begins at Sunset Garden Parks, across the intersection east on 95th Street, going up to the trail entrance across from the Conrad Olson, running, Perrigo Park, with a gap (project starting next spring), continues at Barrett Farm to Union Hill Road. The outer edge "scape" of the trail will be softened. The project was divided into two phases, with 3/4th of the trail completed and the remainder to be completed spring 2005.

C. Watershed Correspondence – Miles Anderson

Cox reported that Miles Anderson, Redmond resident and Boy Scout, inquired about adding another bike trail to the Watershed Reserve. Hopkins noted that the Watershed Master Plan reflect the following:

- 1) Watershed Master Plan – 1997, staff updated in 2001. The letter sent to the Park Board, Trails Commission and City Council – 2001, emphasizing the Watershed Preserve Plan philosophy. Cox noted that the document stated that any changes in the current structure or trail additions should not be pursued without complete wildlife and environmental assessments. Recommendation to Council is that assessments begin and re-evaluation of current guidelines take place in 2007. Staff will begin re-evaluation of the Master Plan in approximately one year.

This would include a species inventory and afterwards making some sort of recommendation.

- 2) Anderson inquired if King County was planning any new bike trails. Cox will e-mail a contact name to Anderson for further questions.

VIII. Coming Attractions

A. Future Park Board Meeting at Old FireHouse Teen Center

Board suggestion - February or March meeting at the Teen Center. Improvements have been made to the OFHTC since the Board's last visit - media lab, new lighting, etc.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Kelsey
Second by: Ladd
Approved: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

By: _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

_____ Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting
January 6, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center